To Trevor Branch:

I am interested in acting as your Teaching Assistant for FISH 552/553, Introduction to R and Advanced R, in Fall 2015. I have extensive experience using R as it use it for all of my data analysis. My previous experience TAing has been with Fish 310 Biology of Shellfish in Spring 2014/2015. I also have an open schedule this fall as I’m finishing up my thesis and defending sometime in Fall 2015.

 My experience with R has been positive with the majority of my research using R for analysis. I taught myself R during my first year of graduate school and then took the Intro R course during Fall 2014 with Dr. Holtgrieve. You can see my github repository for the first chapter of my thesis here (https://github.com/jheare/OluridaSurvey2014) which contains mostly R analysis. I would be a great TA for the course with this experience and my times working as a TA for the FISH 310 Biology of Shellfish.

 In Spring 2014 and 2015, I acted as junior and senior TA. Responsibilities included grading exams from the lecture course, grading materials from the lab sections, teaching the lab section with brief presentations, organizing Canvas materials, developing a quarter project framework for the the lab section, developing a field trip for the students, acting as a stand in for the professor in the lecture course, and creating/setting up exams for the lab sections. I answered student emails and worked closely to help students master material throughout the semester. From this I know that I will be able to assist students as a TA because of the time I have available this fall.

 For Fall 2015, I’m going to be finishing the second chapter of my thesis and should defend near the end of the quarter. This has put me behind on my funding schedule and I will not have funding for Fall 2015. Since most of my quarter will be spent writing, I will have ample time to assist with the course. The flexibility with my schedule will be beneficial for holding office hours and meeting with students as well as grading homework materials. This makes me a prime candidate for TAing this course with you.

With my ample experience in R, my ability to TA courses, and the flexibility of my work schedule this fall makes me a great candidate for the Teaching Associate position for FISH 552/553. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments for me.

Thanks,

Jake Heare